

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 A-01 SY-10 NEA-10 OPR-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

NIC-01 AID-20 DRC-01 /199 W

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P 241215Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3237

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USUISSION USUN NY 378

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3190

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UG US CG

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MUKAMBA REGARDING AMIN'S
LATEST CHARGES AGAINST U.S.

REF: KAMPALA 3185

1. MET WITH AMBASSADOR OF ZAIRE, MUKAMBA, AT HIS CHANCERY
FOLLOWING AMIN'S UN DAY SPEECH OCTOBER 24. I GAVE HIM BRIEF
RUNDOWN ON YESTERDAY'S MEETING WITH GENERAL AMIN, INCLUDING
THE COMMENT THAT I DIDN'T THINK GENERAL AMIN BELIEVED THESE
STORIES HIMSELF BUT WAS PERHAPS USING THEM AS A MEANS OF
EXPLAINING WHY HE IS NOT SENDING A UGANDAN ARMY CONTINGENT
TO FIGHT IN THE NEAR EAST. MUKAMBA IMMEDIATELY AGREED AND
SAID IT SOUNDED TO HIM LIKE A PRETEXT PURE AND SIMPLE TO COVER
UP THE FACT THAT AMIN CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT GETTING INVOLVED
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IN THE ARAB/ISRAELI WAR.

2. I ALSO TOLD MUKAMBA THAT I HAD SENT A LETTER TO GENERAL AMIN CONTAINING AN OFFICIAL AND CATEGORICAL DENIAL OF THE CHARGES AND ASKING THAT HE CONVEY THIS DENIAL TO HIS MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES. MUKAMBA COMMENTED THAT NO ONE IN UGANDA BELIEVES GENERAL AMIN ANY MORE BECAUSE HE TALKS ON SO MANY SIDES ON SO MANY QUESTIONS THAT HE HAS LOST ALL CREDIBILITY. BY CONTRAST, HE SAID, IF GENERAL MOBUTU MADE THIS SORT OF ACCUSATION ABOUT A COMMANDO ATTACK IN KINSHASA A MOB WOULD BE STORMING OUR EMBASSY WITHIN MINUTES, SINCE GENERAL MOBUTU IS BELIEVED WHEN HE MAKES PUBLIC STATEMENTS. STILL, MUKAMBA CONTINUED, IT WOULD BE A GOOD THING IF GENERAL AMIN WERE TO PUBLISH OR OTHERWISE DISSEMINATE OUR OFFICIAL DENIAL BECAUSE OUT IN THE BUSH THE MASSES MAY BELIEVE SOME OF THE SILLY STATEMENTS HE MAKES.

3. WE AGREED THAT AN INTERVENTION WITH GENERAL AMIN BY GENERAL MOBUTU WAS NOT NECESSARY ON THIS OCCASION AND IT WOULD BE BEST TO SAVE HIM FOR SOME FUTURE INCIDENT WHICH MIGHT BE MORE SERIOUS FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. MUKAMBA SAID THAT KINSHASA WAS QUITE DISTURBED OVER THE GENERAL'S MOST RECENT CHARGES AND THAT WAS WHY THEY HAD ASKED HIM FOR A FULL REPORT ON JUST WHAT IS GOING ON HERE THESE DAYS.

4. MUKAMBA, LIKE SEVERAL OTHER DIPLOMATS WHO HEARD GENERAL AMIN'S UN DAY SPEECH TODAY, WAS FULL OF RIDICULE ABOUT THE GENERAL'S LATEST "INSPIRATION FROM GOD."

KEELEY

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